

Section 1169, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §19, as added Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §102, 84 Stat. 106; amended 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §2(a)(1), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2087, related to an annual report by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, appropriations for certain fiscal years, and defined certain terms as used in this chapter.

Section 1170, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §20, as added Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §102, 84 Stat. 107; amended 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §2(a)(1), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2087, related to Alaska village safe water and pollution elimination or control projects.

Section 1171, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §21, formerly §9, 62 Stat. 1160; July 9, 1956, ch. 518, §1, 70 Stat. 506; July 20, 1961, Pub. L. 87-88, §8, 75 Stat. 210; renumbered §11 and amended Oct. 2, 1965, Pub. L. 89-234, §§2(a), 7(e), 79 Stat. 903, 910; 1966 Reorg. Plan No. 2, §1(a), eff. May 10, 1966, 31 F.R. 6857, 80 Stat. 1608; renumbered §21 and amended Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §§102, 103, 84 Stat. 91, 107; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §2(a)(1), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2087, related to cooperation by all Federal agencies in pollution control.

Section 1172, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §22, formerly §10, 62 Stat. 1160; July 9, 1956, ch. 518, §1, 70 Stat. 506; July 20, 1961, Pub. L. 87-88, §1(b), (d), (e), 75 Stat. 204; renumbered §12 and amended Oct. 2, 1965, Pub. L. 89-234, §§2(a), 6, 79 Stat. 903, 909; 1966 Reorg. Plan No. 2, §1(a), eff. May 10, 1966, 31 F.R. 6857, 80 Stat. 1608; renumbered §22 and amended Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §§102, 104, 84 Stat. 91, 110; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §2(a)(1), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2087, related to administration of water pollution control program under this chapter.

Section 1173, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §23, formerly §11, 62 Stat. 1161; July 9, 1956, ch. 518, §1, 70 Stat. 506; June 25, 1959, Pub. L. 86-70, §28(b), 73 Stat. 148; July 12, 1960, Pub. L. 86-624, §23(b), 74 Stat. 418; July 20, 1961, Pub. L. 87-88, §9, 75 Stat. 210; renumbered §13, Oct. 2, 1965, Pub. L. 89-234, §2(a), 79 Stat. 903; amended Nov. 3, 1966, Pub. L. 89-753, title II, §209, 80 Stat. 1251; renumbered §23, Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §102, 84 Stat. 91, related to definitions of terms used in this chapter.

Section 1174, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §24, formerly §12, as added July 9, 1956, ch. 518, §1, 70 Stat. 506; renumbered §14, Oct. 2, 1965, Pub. L. 89-234, §2(a), 79 Stat. 903; renumbered §24 and amended Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, §§102, 107, 84 Stat. 91, 113, related to application of this chapter to other laws.

Section 1175, act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, §26, formerly §16, as added Nov. 3, 1966, Pub. L. 89-753, title II, §210, 80 Stat. 1252; renumbered Apr. 3, 1970, Pub. L. 91-224, title I, §102, 84 Stat. 91; amended 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §2(a)(1), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2087, related to cost estimates, studies, and analysis by the Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency.

## CHAPTER 24—VESSEL BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE COMMUNICATION

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### CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 2034 of this title.

## § 1201. Statement of purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a positive means whereby the operators of approaching vessels can communicate their intentions to one another through voice radio, located convenient to the operator's navigation station. To effectively accomplish this, there is need for a specific frequency or frequencies dedicated to the exchange of navigational information, on navigable waters of the United States.

(Pub. L. 92-63, §2, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 164.)

### SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 92-63 provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act'."

### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 10 of Pub. L. 92-63 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] shall become effective May 1, 1971, or six months after the promulgation of regulations which would implement its provisions, whichever is later." See 47 CFR 83.701 et seq.

## § 1202. Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter—

(1) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

(2) "power-driven vessel" means any vessel propelled by machinery; and

(3) "towing vessel" means any commercial vessel engaged in towing another vessel astern, alongside, or by pushing ahead.

(Pub. L. 92-63, §3, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 164.)

## § 1203. Radiotelephone requirement

### (a) Vessel coverage; exchange of navigational information

Except as provided in section 1206 of this title—

(1) every power-driven vessel of twenty meters or over in length while navigating;

(2) every vessel of one hundred gross tons and upward carrying one or more passengers for hire while navigating;

(3) every towing vessel of twenty-six feet or over in length while navigating; and

(4) every dredge and floating plant engaged in or near a channel or fairway in operations likely to restrict or affect navigation of other vessels—

shall have a radiotelephone capable of operation from its navigational bridge or, in the case of a dredge, from its main control station and capable of transmitting and receiving on the frequency or frequencies within the 156-162 Mega-Hertz band using the classes of emissions des-

ignated by the Federal Communications Commission, after consultation with other cognizant agencies, for the exchange of navigational information.

**(b) Vessels upon navigable waters of United States inside high seas lines**

The radiotelephone required by subsection (a) of this section shall be carried on board the described vessels, dredges, and floating plants upon the navigable waters of the United States inside the lines established pursuant to section 151 of this title.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 4, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 102-241, § 16, Dec. 19, 1991, 105 Stat. 2213.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 102-241 amended par. (1) generally, substituting “twenty meters or over in length” for “three hundred gross tons and upward”.

VESSEL COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, § 4118, Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 523, provided that: “The Secretary shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 18, 1990], issue regulations necessary to ensure that vessels subject to the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act of 1971 (33 U.S.C. 1203) are also equipped as necessary to—

“(1) receive radio marine navigation safety warnings; and

“(2) engage in radio communications on designated frequencies with the Coast Guard, and such other vessels and stations as may be specified by the Secretary.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 46 section 14305.

**§ 1204. Radiotelephone for exclusive use of master, person in charge, or pilot; frequency listening watch; portable radiotelephone equipment**

The radiotelephone required by this chapter is for the exclusive use of the master or person in charge of the vessel, or the person designated by the master or person in charge to pilot or direct the movement of the vessel, who shall maintain a listening watch on the designated frequency. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as precluding the use of portable radiotelephone equipment to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 5, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 165.)

**§ 1205. Radiotelephone capability; maintenance; restoration; consequences of loss; navigation of vessel**

Whenever radiotelephone capability is required by this chapter, a vessel's radiotelephone equipment shall be maintained in effective operating condition. If the radiotelephone equipment carried aboard a vessel ceases to operate, the master shall exercise due diligence to restore it or cause it to be restored to effective operating condition at the earliest practicable time. The failure of a vessel's radiotelephone equipment shall not, in itself, constitute a violation of this chapter, nor shall it obligate the master of any vessel to moor or anchor his vessel; however, the loss of radiotelephone capability shall be given consideration in the navigation of the vessel.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 6, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 165.)

**§ 1206. Exemptions; terms and conditions**

The Secretary may, if he considers that marine navigational safety will not be adversely affected or where a local communication system fully complies with the intent of this concept but does not conform in detail, issue exemptions from any provisions of this chapter, on such terms and conditions as he considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 7, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 165.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1203 of this title.

**§ 1207. Regulations**

**(a) Operating and technical conditions and characteristics; frequencies, emission, and power of radiotelephone equipment**

The Federal Communications Commission shall, after consultation with other cognizant agencies, prescribe regulations necessary to specify operating and technical conditions and characteristics including frequencies, emission, and power of radiotelephone equipment required under this chapter.

**(b) Enforcement**

The Secretary shall, subject to the concurrence of the Federal Communications Commission, prescribe regulations for the enforcement of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 8, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 165.)

**§ 1208. Penalties**

**(a) Master, person in charge, or pilot subject to penalty**

Whoever, being the master or person in charge of a vessel subject to this chapter, fails to enforce or comply with this chapter or the regulation, hereunder; or

Whoever, being designated by the master or person in charge of a vessel subject to this chapter to pilot or direct the movement of the vessel, fails to enforce or comply with this chapter or the regulations hereunder—

Is liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 to be assessed by the Secretary.

**(b) Vessels subject to penalty; jurisdiction**

Every vessel navigating in violation of this chapter or the regulations hereunder is liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 to be assessed by the Secretary for which the vessel may be proceeded against in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction.

**(c) Remission or mitigation**

Any penalty assessed under this section may be remitted or mitigated by the Secretary upon such terms as he may deem proper.

(Pub. L. 92-63, § 9, Aug. 4, 1971, 85 Stat. 165.)

**CHAPTER 25—PORTS AND WATERWAYS  
SAFETY PROGRAM**

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